

HOUSE RESOLUTION 29

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Edith Cavender Cantrell on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Edith Cavender Cantrell will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 9, 2021, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in Williamsport, Edith Cantrell has lived an amazing life and has experienced firsthand the breadth and span of American history, outliving her four siblings and their spouses, her husband, and her husband's nine siblings and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, in early childhood, Mrs. Cantrell relocated briefly to Texas with her parents, Henry and Emma Cavender, and her siblings; upon returning to Tennessee, the family made a home in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Central High School, Edith Cantrell worked at several Nashville businesses, including May Hosiery Mill and Kress Department Store before going to work for AVCO during World War II; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 1944, she was joined in holy matrimony with James Edward Cantrell in Providence, Rhode Island, while he served as a Seabee in the United States Navy; a carpenter by trade, Mr. Cantrell built their family home in Donelson, Tennessee, in 1950, and they shared fifty-two years of companionship until the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, the proud mother of four children, Mike, Gary, Valeria, and Gwen, Mrs. Cantrell went to work part time for Sears when her children were older; though she retired from

Sears, she returned to part-time retail work several years later at Castner Knott at Harding Mall; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cantrell is the devoted grandmother of seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Edith Cantrell has been a faithfully devoted member of Donelson Church of Christ since the early 1950s; prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, she attended church every Sunday and Wednesday and served at the church's benevolence house; and

WHEREAS, as Edith Cantrell enters her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society; she still resides in the home her husband built and takes great pride in her independence, typically enjoying walks at Opry Mills four to five times per week as well as weekly trips to the hairdresser and biweekly trips to the manicurist. She studies the Bible daily and takes pleasure in spending time with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, her best kept secret has been her age; Mrs. Cantrell has kept it under lock and key, but has always promised that she would share the number should she reach a certain milestone; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Edith Cavender Cantrell on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.